



REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1939.

Presented to the

SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

by

Francis J. Walker, C.B.E., M.D., L.S. S.C.

Medical Officer of Health.

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March, 1940.

TO THE SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

10th June, 1940.

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District over which I act as Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st 1939.

The Minister of Health has issued an order that while he does not think a discontinuance of annual reports would be desirable during the period of the War he will be satisfied with its curtailment and recommends it should be limited to a record of important alterations and improvements which have taken place during the year.

This report therefore will be somewhat curtailed.

(1) Vital Statistics.

These refer to the old Spilsby Rural District and do not include any item (except in the appendix) relating to the old Sibsey Rural District. The figures in this report are compiled from the returns which I receive monthly from the Local Registrars of Births and Deaths and refer to the 63 parishes for which I am responsible.

Area. The area remains the same and the population the same as last year, 20,800. The number of young men who have left the district to join His Majesty's Forces being counter balanced by the number of children that have been evacuated from dangerous areas in the district.

The Rateable Value is £66,352 and £311.17.3 represents the product of a penny rate.

The number of inhabited Houses is 7131.

The Births were 291. 164 males and 127 females. This number is slightly higher than that of last year and represents a rate per 1000 population of 13.50.

The Birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales for last year was . ~~£~~

The Deaths were 197 representing a death rate per 1000 of the population of .94. Half of these deaths were in people of 70 years and upwards.

The Death-rate for England and Wales was . ~~£~~

No death was registered from puerperal sepsis of from any other puerperal cause. No death was recorded as being primarily due to any of the Infectious Diseases.

The death of infants under one year numbered 13, giving a rate per 1000 births of 44.7.

Ten persons died from consumption giving a death rate of .47 per 1000 population. The average for the last five years was .43. Cancer claimed 20 victims, giving a rate per 1000 of .96 which is about the average for the last five years.

~~£~~ Not yet known.

2. General Provision of Health Services.

The Staff is the same as last year.

Laboratory examinations are carried out by the Lincoln County Council and by the Clinical Research Association in London.

Hospitals, Clinics and Ambulances remain the same.

A Joint Conference of the County Council and District Council of 3 and 4 areas of a scheme for Hospital accommodation for Infectious Diseases was held at Lincoln on the 28th November 1939 and it was eventually agreed the Ministry be asked to sanction the combination of No. 3 and 4 Areas.

Midwifery and Maternity Services. The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act for the whole of Lindsey.

3. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply - Fen Scheme.

The year 1939 saw the completion of the Council's Fen Water Scheme. The length of the pipes laid in accordance with the proposed scheme as placed before the Ministry of Health was:-

8"	6"	5"	4"	3"	2"
4507 yards.	9818 yds.	15105 yds.	16409 yds.	32132 yds.	3427.

Many owners and occupiers of properties off the line of mains were desirous of partaking from the Council's supply. In every case the Council's Officials gave every advice and assistance with the result additional mains were laid, enlarging the original scheme with 12.377 yards water mains. In all cases of extensions undertakings were signed agreeing to pay for a period of ten years at ten per cent per annum of the cost of the extensions.

The position of premises etc. serviced on the 31st December, 1939 is as follows:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses.</u>	<u>Specials.</u>	<u>Meter.</u>
East Keal.	4	-	1
West Keal.	6	2	2
Stickford.	35	7	11
Stickney.	126	25	11
West Fen.	15	2	1
Midvillo.	27	5	21
New Loake.	81	2	9
Eastville.	79	15	40
Little Steeping.	30	3	5
Thorpe.	15	-	2
Halton.	23	1	3
Toynton all Saints.	16	2	4
Toynton St. Peter.	33	4	4
Friskney.	304	52	56
	<u>794</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>170</u>

Supplies by Standpipe (1) near Little Steeping Station.
(2) Chapel Drove, Thorpe.

From the collecting area at present intercepted it is known by gaugings that there is an average hourly flow of 6,200 gallons per hour or 148,600 gallons per day.

According to the meter recorder the average daily consumption totals 39,000 gallons per day. This figure is not a fair basis in relation to the premises and field serviced from the main as undoubtedly there will be a large

increase in consumption during the summer months, particularly when the cattle are in the fields.

Coastal Water Scheme.

I am sorry I cannot give a similar satisfactory report with regard the Coastal Water Scheme. Difficulties and delay dog the progress of this scheme. But the Council will I know persist in its endeavour to over-come all obstacles and bring this scheme to a satisfactory conclusion. Oh, how we miss the sound local knowledge and indomitable perseverance of your late Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Up to the end of the year trunk mains have been laid in the parishes of Anderby, Mumby, Ingoldmells, Addlethorpe and Chapel St. Leonards.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Wainfleet Sewage Works.

A notification was received from the County Council stating that there was a suspicion that the sewage effluent from these works entering the River Steeping was not sufficiently purified.

The Council immediately took steps to prevent any flow of sewage effluent getting into the Weir drain. Land adjacent to the Weir drain used as irrigation beds was not used and virgin land approximately 2.2 acres of the adjoining grass field was ploughed, sub-drained and fenced and is now used for irrigation purposes.

These remedial works are only temporary. The day must come in the near future when new up-to-date sewage works are to be considered at Wainfleet.

Scavenging. The public scavenging systems remain the same as last year.

Smoke Nuisance.

Following complaints and observations of smoke emitted from a factory in the District, a Statutory notice was served on the Owners of the firm to adopt the best practical means for preventing or for counteracting the effect of a smoke nuisance. A result was achieved by installing a new economic boiler having a mechanical stoker and the construction of a new 110 ft. brick chimney.

All works were completed on the 20th December, 1939.

4. Housing.

Council Houses to be erected.

Plans and specifications had been prepared by the Council's Surveyor for the proposed erection of 50 Council Houses and 30 Bungalows for aged persons. The plans had been approved by the Ministry and building was contemplated to commence in October 1939, but due to the commencement of the war and following the instruction from the Ministry of Health in their Circular 1866, dated 8th September 1939, whereby the Ministry would not be prepared for the time being to approve of the erection of further houses unless they were satisfied that there were exceptional circumstances which rendered the work important in the national interest. The Council decided to postpone the proposed housing programme for the time being.

There are 317 Council Houses in the Spilsby Rural District.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

Three applications were received from owners of properties asking the Council to consider a grant to them under the above Act.

The properties were in respect of cottages at:-

- (1) New Leake.
- (2) Toynton St. Peter.
- (3) Bilsby.

Following visits by a sub-committee, their recommendations were namely in respective order as above:

(1) The sub-committee were of the opinion that they could not recommend the Council to grant any assistance under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act as the intended works were of ordinary repair.

(2) Due to the estimated cost of works to be executed as allowed under the provisions of the Act being less than £50, the sub-committee had no power to recommend assistance to the owner.

(3) Matter outstanding.

Housing Act 1936.

Overcrowding.

An offence in relation to overcrowding was reported to the Council. The owner of the premises received from the Local Authorities in October 1937, a certificate stating the permitted number of unit persons allowed, viz. $1\frac{1}{2}$ persons. On re-inspection on the 5th January 1939, it was disclosed that the owner had allowed a unit number of 4 persons to occupy the premises.

5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

The cowsheds and dairies not conforming with the hygienic conditions laid down in the Milk and Dairies Order, are gradually being converted to the desired conditions.

During the year eleven new cowsheds were constructed, and thirty five cowsheds altered so as to conform with the Council's requirements regarding the buildings in lighting, drainage, water supply and internal construction.

With the County Sanitary Inspector, your Inspector's have visited farms where in their opinion the farmer is interested in clean milk production, and they have been successful on many occasions in their endeavour to persuade the farmer to be licensed as an Accredited milk producer.

Particulars of cowsheds erected and converted in 1939:-

New Cowsheds.

Mr. J.R. Riggall, Mavis Enderby.
Mr. Waite. Croft.
Mr. C.J. Tuxworth. Monks thorpe.
Mr. C. Ingamells. Westville.
Mr. H. Woodward. Ingoldmells.
Mr. C.F. Middleton. Dalby.
Mr. S. Ellerby. Huttoft.
Mr. R.W. Brown. Ailby.
Mr. F. Simpson. Wigg Lane, Hogsthorpe.
Mr. A.E. Baumber. Hogsthorpe.

Cowsheds Reconstructed.

Miss. I. Pell, Little Steeping.
Mr. T. Burman. Sibsey.
Mr. C. Taylor. Stickney.
Mr. Pike. Stickford Fen.
Mr. A. Odlin. Halton Fenside.
Mr. Maplethorpe. Anton's Gowt.
Mr. Levesley. Croft.
Mr. F.W. Johnson. Keal Cotes.
Mr. J. Clarke. Thorpe.
Mr. C. Barton. Great Steeping.
Mr. G. Bark. Firsby.
Mr. B. Best, Bratoft.
Mr. J. Chootham. East Keal.
Mr. J. Parsons. Irby.
Mr. G. Everard. Bratoft.
Mr. A.C. Everard. Anderby. (2 cowsheds)
Mr. R.E. Fields. Anderby. (2 cowsheds)
Mr. C. Wright. Anderby. (2 cowsheds)
Mr. C.L. Good. Huttoft.
Mr. Wm. Marshall. Hogsthorpe.
Mr. J.H. Johnson. Candlesby.
Messrs. J.E. & G.F. Holmes. Hogsthorpe.
Mr. T. Soulby. Orby.
Mr. P.S. Anderson. Orby.
Mr. Dennis. Burgh..
Messrs. Parrott & Smith, Aswardby.
Mr. W. Cooke-Pape, Cumberworth.
Mrs. Brant. Welton-le-Marsh.
Mr. A. White. Chapel St. Leonards.
Mr. Clowes. Hogsthorpe.
Mrs. Allett. Burgh-le-Marsh.
Mr. J. Boulton. Addlethorpe.

Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection.

Proceedings were taken against a butcher who had on previous occasions been warned by the Chief Sanitary Inspector for (a) failure to give notice forthwith of diseased or unsound conditions of the carcasses of two pigs, (b) the removal of the mesentery and internal organs prior to inspection when the carcasses appeared to be diseased or unsound, (c) having carcase meat exposed for sale, or deposited in any place for the purpose of sale, or of preparation for sale and intended for the food of man.

After hearing the evidence, the Justices found the defendant guilty on all charges with fines of £5 in case (a); £5 in case (b); and £2-10-0 in case (c).

6. Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Small Pox. In common with the rest of England this district has again been free from small-pox.

Scarlet Fever. Fourteen notifications were received but they all referred to isolated cases and in six different months of the year, 6 of these patients were removed to neighbouring Isolation Infectious Hospitals.

Diphtheria. Fifteen notifications were received which is double the number of the average of the last five years. Most of the cases came from parishes in the outskirts of the district and where children were attending central schools in an adjoining urban area and where Diphtheria was known to be present. Many were sent to Infectious hospitals and they all recovered.

Typhoid Fever. This disease was not notified during the year.

Puerperal Fever. Only three cases were notified and they all recovered.

Pneumonia. Seven notifications were received. A few less than last year. There were 5 deaths recorded.

On October the 23rd, the Ministry of Health added Measles and Whooping Cough to the list of diseases to be compulsorily notified but the year was too far advanced to influence the statistics of this report. I have received eleven notifications of Whooping Cough and none of Measles.

The following table shows the incidence of Notifiable Diseases.

Diseases.	Cases notified.	Cases admitted to.	Deaths.
Smallpox.	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever.	14	6	0
Diphtheria.	15	9	0
Enteric Fever.	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.	3	0	0
Pneumonia.	7	0	5
Erysipelas.	1	0	0

Tuberculosis. This disease was notified eighteen times, four were non-pulmonary.

Age period.	New cases.				Deaths.			
	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-respiratory.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
20	-	2	-	2	1	1	-	1
25	4	4	1	-	2	1	-	-
35	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & upwards.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Total.	7	11	1	3	3	6	1	1

After War was declared an evacuation scheme, for Mothers and children was formulated by Government from large crowded areas into Rural District and Spilsby Rural District was asked to make arrangements to accommodate 7000 children. In company with your Chief Sanitary Inspector I made an inspection of your district to see if we could find an empty house which we could procure and recommend to your Authority to be used for any child who was found then, or at any future time, to be suffering from any contagious or infectious disease and consequently was not suitable to remain with the family to whom it had been evacuated. We inspected three houses and finally recommended Langton Old Hall which had been kindly loaned to you. This offer was accepted and with some minor alterations and the provision of some second-hand beds and furniture was quickly made available. The number of children we expected to be evacuated into this district fell far short of what was arranged and never exceeded 500. This house at Langton was inspected by one of the Assistants of the Minister of Health and in the meanwhile,

the County Council had made a somewhat similar provision so that the Ministry considered the provision we had made as redundant and they took over the furniture and the place was closed.

The whole scheme of evacuation has so far proved a failure on account of the parents being so unwilling to be separated from their children.

It is, I believe, now suggested that Hostels should be set up in the country to accommodate children of school age so that education is not interrupted. If this scheme succeeds better than the original one, it is a pity that all the furniture and crockery which was got so cheaply should have been dispersed.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Francis J. Walker.

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX No. 1.

The following tables relate to the whole of the Spilsby Rural Area.

The following shows some of the work done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year throughout the whole of the Rural District.

<u>Common</u>	(No. registered under byelaws.	9
<u>Lodging</u>	(No. of inspections made.	3
<u>Houses.</u>	(No. of contraventions of byelaws.	6
	(No. of contraventions remedied.	3
<u>Canal Boats</u>	(No. registered under acts.	1
<u>used by</u>	(No. of inspections.	1
<u>Dwelling-</u>	(No. of contraventions of regulations.	1
<u>Houses.</u>	(No. of contraventions remedied.	1
<u>Movable</u>	(No. inspected during year.	268
<u>Dwellings</u>	(No. of nuisances therefrom abated.	13
<u>Tents, Vans.</u>	(No. removed from district.	3
	(No. in district.	41
<u>Bakehouses.</u>	(No. of underground bakehouses.	1
	(No. of inspections.	38
	(Contraventions of Factory Acts.	5
	(Defects remedied.	1
<u>Slaughter-</u>	(No. on register.	29
<u>houses.</u>	(No. of inspections.	227
	(Contraventions of byelaws.	1
	(Defects remedied.	1
<u>Cowsheds.</u>	(No. on register.	682
	(No. of inspections.	350
	(Contraventions of regulations.	43
	(Contraventions remedied.	43
	(No. of Milch cows in district.	2503
<u>Dairies and</u>	(No. on register.	693
<u>Milk Shops.</u>	(No. of inspections.	256
	(Contraventions of regulations.	11
	(Contraventions remedied.	11
	(Any instance of disease attributed	1
	(to milk during the year.	

Unsound Food.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding COWS.	Cows.	Calves.	Shoep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if any known)					
Number inspected.	142	30	7	190	430
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned.	1	1	1	2	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	8			4	1

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.					
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> whole carcasses condemned.		1.			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.					

<u>Water Supply.</u>	Wells	(New Sunk	16
		(Cleansed, repaired	-
		(Closed as polluted	-
	Public Supplies.	(Area supplied, Wainfleet All. Saints.	
		Wainfleet St. Mary,	
		Croft, Friskney, Spilsby,	
		Hundleby, Raithby, Burgh,	
		Orby, Welton, Gunby,	
		Candlesby, Bilsby, Markby,	
		Well, Sibsey, Frithville,	
		Carrington, West Fen,	
		Toynton all Saints,	
		Toynton St. Peter, Halton	
		Holegate, Little Steeping,	
		Thorpe St. Peter, East	
		Keal, West Keal, Stickford.	
		Stickney, New Leake,	
		Eastville, Midville, Old	
		Bolingbroke, Langton,	
		Mavis Enderby.	
		(New Supplies provided	
		Fen Water Scheme.	1130
		Skegness U.D.C.	16
		North East Lincs.	7
		Mablethorpe U.D.C.	-
		Boston Corporation.	13
			<u>1166</u>
		No of samples obtained for analysis	
		(a) from wells.	
		(b) from public supply.	
		Any insufficiency and where :-	
		Langrивille	
		Thornton-le-Fen.	

<u>Drainage and Sewerage.</u>	Closets.	(No. of houses with privy vaults.	3365
		(No. of houses with pail closets.	2389
		(No. of pails substituted for vaults.	18
		(No. of pail closets repaired.	12
		(No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles.	10
		(No. of houses with water closets.	1398
		(No. of water closets repaired.	2
	Drains.	(Drains examined, exposed, tested.	208
		(Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped.	9
		(Waste piles, rainwater pipes disconnected.	6
		(New soil pipes or vent shafts fixed.	81
		(Drains reconstructed.	14
		(Existing soil pipes or vents repaired.	3
	Tanks.	(Alterations to sewage disposal works Willoughby.	
	Filter-beds.	(
	Cesspools.	(Cesspools rendered impervious.	86
		(Cesspools emptied, cleansed.	6
		(Cesspools abolished.	-

Disinfection.

(Rooms disinfected.	55
(a) ordinary infectious disease.	29
(b) Tuberculosis.	26

Articles disinfected.	Contents of room.
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<u>House Refuse.</u>	(No. of covered ashpits.	3822
	(No. of bins substituted.	3
	(No. of houses using bins.	3340
	(Public Scavenger at Spilsby, Wainfleet	
	(All Saints, Burgh, Chapel St. Leonards,	
	(Hogsthorpe, Anderby, Ingoldmells,	
	(Wainfleet St. Mary (part).	
	(Frequency of removal.	Weekly
	(No. of complaints of non-removal.	15
	(Method of final disposal.	Controlled tipping.

(Total number of nuisances during year.	52
(1) abated as result of informal action.	
(2) reported to Council.	

(Overcrowding.	1
(Smoke.	1
(Accumulation of refuse.	3
(Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water.	18
(Foul pigs and other animals.	4
(Dampness.	12
(Yards repaved and repaired.	3
(Other nuisances.	10

APPENDIX No. 2.

Total No. of new houses erected during the year.

(1) By the Local Authority.	77
(2) By other Local Authorities.	3
(3) By other bodies or persons.	74.

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.	115.
	(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose.	463.
(2)	(a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-Head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925.	52.
	(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose.	335.
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	1.
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation.	78.

Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authorities or their Officers.	66.
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	25.
(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	
(1) by owners.	19.
(2) by Local Authorities in default of owners.	-
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	-
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
(1) by owners.	-
(2) by Local Authorities in default of owners.	-
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	38.
(2) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	22.
(3) No. of dwelling-houses subject to undertakings.	49.

Housing Act 1936, Part 4 - Overcrowding.

(a)	(1) No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	40.
	(2) No. families dwelling therein.	40.
	(3) No. of persons dwelling therein.	221.
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	1.
(c)	(1) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	17.
	(2) No. of persons concerned in such cases.	114.
(d)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved.	-
